

MONDAY MESSENGER
SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
APRIL 26, 2021

Pastor's Letter:

“Jesus began to weep.” - *John 11:35*

As I write this, we just heard that our beloved Rich Mount died suddenly last night. Only thirteen days ago another one of our beloved saints, Norm Grahn, died. It's a lot to take in after more than a year during which about fourteen other SELC members and friends have died- most without funeral services and many whom we haven't seen in person since the pandemic started- on top of all the suffering and death brought about by COVID-19. It really, really hurts. It can seem like a heavy cloud has settled upon us, bringing with it a listlessness or depression. That's very natural and understandable.

It is *also* true that this IS the Easter season and we are a Resurrection people for whom hope is real and strengthening. The story of the Raising of Lazarus in John 11 supports this fact. I'm continually struck by the fact that even though Jesus knows that he will raise up Lazarus from the dead, even though he also knows that he himself will be resurrected after death on a cross, and even though he knows that, ultimately, death will be defeated, and love will win, still he weeps. It says to me that if even Jesus allows himself to express deep sorrow with the knowledge of the joy to come, so can we. I think of the phrase from the poem, “On Joy and Sorrow” by Kahlil Gibran that says, “Together they come, and when one sits alone with you at your board, remember that the other is asleep upon your bed.” Or, as I have quoted from Romans 12:15 when announcing a death in worship, “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” It's what we do when we live together in Christian community. We allow ourselves to deeply feel both joy and sorrow believing that God graciously upholds and sustains us through both.

And there is also much in which we DO rejoice. Intern Pastor Annela and husband Reese had a healthy baby on Sunday! Duke Burford is now in rehabilitation after coming close to dying from COVID-19! We're back in worship together after many months away! We're anticipating a baptism on Mother's Day and Confirmation for a few youth on Pentecost! The beauty of spring is expanding on our campus with more plantings and landscape designs! Senior High youth will receive Graduation blessings and blankets in June! Vaccinations are allowing us more freedom!

It's important that we hold these realities to us just as closely as the sad ones. For, as Easter people our perspective is that, ultimately, Resurrection Reality is THE truest of realities, more powerful and deeper than any other. Held by that hope, we don't give into despair but trust God as best we can. Strengthened by that promise, we move forward in life continuing to do what we can to relieve the pain and suffering of others. Looking towards the dawn, we walk confidently and courageously through the night.

May this Easter season be a time when we more deeply reflect upon and live out that reality.

Walking the Way with you,
Pastor Mark Perry

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT:
ILMARI FAACKS ROVA**



We share joy with Intern Pastor Annela and husband, Reese, at the birth of their healthy baby girl, Ilmari Faacks Rova, on Sunday, April 25, 2021, 5:17 am, at Canyon Vista Medical Center! She is 5 pounds, 14 ounces, 19.5 inches long. Everything went well and mother and baby are doing fine. Congratulations! (Please note: Intern Pastor Annela will be on maternity leave for up to six weeks and so unavailable for pastoral care and other needs).

Photos from the Blessing and Dedication on April 11th of the acacia tree in honor of their baby:



FRIENDLY REMINDER: CALL WITH YOUR RSVP FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE BY THURSDAY, 4:00 PM, EACH WEEK. We need these RSVPs in order to plan for a second worship service if our numbers require it. We have a limit to the number of people we can allow in a worship service at this time.

THANK YOU

My family and I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the outpouring of prayers, support, flowers, cards, and food during this difficult time in our lives. We are so grateful for all the extra work and arrangements that were made by the church staff to make Norm's service so special. It is so wonderful to have such a loving church family.

- Elaine Grahn and family

FROM THE ALTAR GUILD

The Paschal Candle that is lit and remains in the chancel area during the Easter season is a gift from Diana Galecke in memory of Clarence. This candle is also lit at all baptisms and memorial services.

The corner wood cross placed on the angled wall behind the piano is a gift from Doug Hamp.

Thank you to all who continue to gift and give during this time.

From the Altar Guild.

FAITH 5

Every Night In Every Home!

Our FAITH5 verse of the week is
John 10:11

“Jesus said, ‘I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.’”

(Post or keep this weekly scripture in a handy place and every morning or evening share the following as a couple, or with family members in the home or even with a dear friend over the phone.)



SHARE

Share your highs and lows of the day with one another.



READ

Read the verse of the week and if time permits, the Bible story that pertains to the Scripture of the week.



TALK

Talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows of the day or how it's speaking to you.



PRAY

Pray for one another's highs and lows and other prayer requests.



BLESS

Bless one another. Make the sign of the cross on each other's forehead or palm of your hands and say something simple such as: “God bless you and keep you in His love and care!” Or feel free to make up your own blessing that incorporates part of the FAITH5 verse.

Be creative! Stay open to the Holy Spirit!

SUNDAY LECTIONARY DAILY READINGS
The readings are chosen so that the days flowing out from Sunday (Mon. - Wed.) reflect upon that Sunday's readings. The days leading up to Sunday (Thur. - Sat.) prepare for next Sunday readings.

Monday

Psalm 80
Isaiah 5:1-7
Galatians 5:16-26

Tuesday

Psalm 80
Isaiah 32:9-20
James 3:17-18

Wednesday

Psalm 80
Isaiah 65:17-25
John 14:18-31

Thursday

Psalm 98
Isaiah 49:5-6
Acts 10:1-34

Friday

Psalm 98
Isaiah 42:5-9
Acts 10:34-43

Saturday

Psalm 98
Deuteronomy 32:44-47
Mark 10:42-45

Sunday

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17